

**APPROVED**  
**March 18, 2026**

*Melissa Bealon*  
Board Secretary Melissa Bealon

Item #G-1  
March 18, 2026

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**AD HOC STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

**Submitted for:** Action.

**Summary:** This item requests approval of an Ad Hoc Strategy Committee

**Action Requested:** In June 2021, the Illinois Board of Higher Education approved a new strategic plan for higher education, which was later formally endorsed by the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. *A Thriving Illinois: Higher Education Paths to Equity, Sustainability, and Growth*, outlines 25 strategies to close equity gaps for students; ensure affordability for families and a stronger financial footing for institutions; and increase talent and innovation to drive the state's economic growth. With the extensive engagement process that shaped its development, *A Thriving Illinois* has served as a unifying blueprint for institutional strategic plans, statewide policy, and program development.

Now, after nearly five years of implementation, with multiple pieces of supporting legislation enacted, budget investments by the Governor and General Assembly, and statewide programs, policies, and practices aligned, the Board wants to step back and review progress to date, prioritize implementation for the next five years, and identify any needed modifications in the strategies, more to reflect and refine than to reset.

The Ad Hoc Strategy Committee will consist of the IBHE Chair, Vice Chair, and four (4) IBHE Board members appointed by the IBHE Chair and supported by staff. The Committee will work closely with the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. The Committee will begin meeting at the June 2026 IBHE Board meeting and will continue to meet at each of the next three IBHE Board meetings in August, November, and January.

The Committee will engage key stakeholders including, but not limited to, ICCB, ISAC, IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, IBHE Student Advisory Council, presidents and chancellors of public universities and community colleges, and the Executive Committee of the Federation of Independent Colleges and Universities.

The Committee process will culminate in recommendations to the full Board, the publication of a Progress Report, an Addendum to *A Thriving Illinois* with any updates, and a Monitoring Rubric for annual progress reporting to the Board. The Report will summarize progress to date on the strategies included in *A Thriving Illinois* while the Monitoring Rubric will provide the Board and stakeholders with an annual progress update on priority outcomes and performance measures. The committee will complete its work by January 2027 in order for the IBHE Board to assess recommendations for the FY28 higher education budget.

The Ad Hoc Strategy Committee shall be appointed by the Chair of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, and all meetings shall be subject to the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

The Board is asked to approve the establishment of the Ad Hoc Strategy Committee consisting of the IBHE Chair, Vice Chair, and four (4) IBHE Board members appointed by the IBHE Chair.